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SUBJECT Cost of Living in Kiev

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SOURCE

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1. [redacted] I was on leave in Kiev and can furnish information on prices of various commodities there at that time /See Annex A/. I cannot state positively, but I am fairly certain that prices varied from one area of the USSR to another; this was probably due to a number of reasons, e.g., the availability of products in various areas, transportation costs, etc. When price reductions were announced in the USSR, they were usually very detailed, indicating not only the groups of goods but also the subcategories within each group. While on leave I made purchases only in state stores and can therefore quote only those prices I found there.
2. Generally speaking, public dining places in Kiev could be divided into three categories:
- a. First class dining rooms in large hotels and in railroad stations of large cities;
 - b. Second class dining rooms in most railroad stations and in public restaurants;
 - c. Third class eating places, such as public bars, snack bars, beer houses, etc.
3. Approximate prices (in rubles) for food in a first class hotel ran as follows:
- a. Breakfast:
 - (1) Two eggs 4.00
 - (2) Rolls and butter 2.50
 - (3) Coffee and cream 1.75

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b. Dinner:

(1)	Meat dish with potatoes and a vegetable	9.12
(2)	Salad	2.00
(3)	Rolls and butter	2.50
(4)	Cake	3.50
(5)	Cocoa	2.50

c. Supper:

(1)	Meat dish with potatoes and a vegetable	9.12
(2)	Salad	2.00
(3)	Rolls and butter	2.50
(4)	Ice cream	5.00
(5)	Coffee with cream	1.75

d. Other Items:

(1)	Serving of cheese	4.00
(2)	Serving of sausage	7.00
(3)	Serving of salmon	5.00
(4)	Serving of caviar	12.00
(5)	150 g. of vodka	10.00
(6)	150 g. of cognac	18.00
(7)	Bottle of beer	6.00
(8)	Bottle of champagne	42.00

For first class dining rooms in railroad stations of large cities, add 15% to these prices; for second class dining rooms, reduce these prices by 30-35%; for third class eating places, reduce these prices by 50-60%.

4. I have furnished information on the average budget of three different income groups in Kiev See Annex B. (Each family consists of husband, wife, and two non-working children.)
5. In 1950, a room containing 2-10 beds in an officers' hotel cost seven rubles per night, while a single room in an officers' hotel was 15 rubles. A single room without bath in an Intourist hotel was 25 rubles per night; a single room with bath in an Intourist hotel was 35 rubles per night; two rooms with bath in an Intourist hotel were 50 rubles per night. I believe that these prices have now become about 10% lower.
6. While on leave I also priced furniture. A bedroom suite, consisting of two beds, two wardrobes, one chest of drawers, and two end tables, was priced at 12,000 rubles. A living room suite of a sofa, two overstuffed chairs, two small tables, and some smaller items cost 15,000 rubles. A kitchen set of one table, four chairs, and a cupboard cost 3,000 rubles.
7. Other miscellaneous prices which I can recall are (prices in rubles):

a. Shoe Repair:

(1)	Rubber half soles	12
(2)	Leather half soles	30
(3)	Leather full soles and heels	70

b. Shave and haircut

4-10

c. Movie tickets

2-6

d. Opera and theater tickets

6-25

e. Concert tickets

10-35

f. Maid service (full-time)

100-200 per month,
plus room and board

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Annex A: Cost of Consumer Goods in Kiev in December 1952

Annex B: Sample Budgets for Kiev Families in December 1952

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Annex A

COST OF CONSUMER GOODS IN KIEV IN DECEMBER 1952

<u>Foodstuffs</u>	<u>Price in Rubles</u>
Black bread, kilo	2.90
Milk, liter	3.00
Eggs, ten	12-15
Butter, kilo	55-62
Vegetable oil, liter	50
Cheese, kilo	42-65
Sugar, kilo	10-12
Beef, filet, kilo	22-24
Beef, 2nd choice, kilo	17-18
Beef, other cuts, kilo	12.00
Mutton, 1st grade, kilo	25.00
Pork, 1st grade, kilo	30.00
Veal, 1st grade, kilo	20.00
Chicken	22.00
Fresh salmon or carp, kilo	50-90
Potatoes, kilo	3.00
Rice, kilo	(rarely available)
Apples, kilo	3-6
Oranges, kilo	10
<u>Luxury Foods</u>	
Black caviar, kilo	140.00
Vodka, 40 degrees, liter	44-58
Wine, 85 centiliters	8-18
"Cognac," Soviet, $\frac{1}{2}$ liter	35-110
"Champagne," Soviet, bottle	28.00
Coffee, ground, kilo	72.00
Tea, 1st grade, 100 grams	22.00
<u>Clothing</u>	
Wool, medium grade, meter	300.00
Cotton socks, pair (half wool, half cotton)	7-19
Man's wool suit	1,500-2,000
Man's leather coat	3,000
Felt boots for winter	250-400
Woman's felt hat	40.00
Man's felt hat	40.00
<u>Manufactured Products</u>	
Man's bicycle	600-900
Baby-carriage	150-300
Upright piano	4,000-7,000
Electric refrigerator	2,700
Small car (Moskvich)	9,000
Pobeda automobile	16,000
Television sets;	
Screen about six inches by nine inches	1,600
Screen about nine inches by 12 inches	2,700
(Kiev had one television station. Television sets could usually be found on display, and, although a fair number were purchased, they were out of the price range of most people.)	
Radio sets:	
Six tubes	800-900
Eight tubes and three wave lengths	1,300

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Annex B

SAMPLE BUDGETS FOR KIEV FAMILIES IN DECEMBER 1952

Monthly Budget for Family of Four, with a Total Monthly Income of 700 Rubles

Apartment, including electricity, kindling, etc.	70
Food (practically no meat or fat)	400
State loan	70
Taxes	35
Entertainment	20
Vodka, one liter	44
Smoking tobacco (makhorka)	20
Transportation	25
Miscellaneous	16
	<hr/> 700

Monthly Budget for Family of Four, with a Total Monthly Income of 1,200 Rubles

Apartment, including electricity, kindling, etc.	90
Food (meat twice monthly and fat only for cooking)	640
State loan	120
Taxes	60
Entertainment	50
Vodka, one liter	44
Smoking tobacco (makhorka)	26
Transportation	30
Furniture and apartment repair	70
Miscellaneous	70
	<hr/> 1,200

Monthly Budget for Family of Four, with a Total Monthly Income of 2,000 Rubles

Apartment, including electricity, heat, etc.	110
Food (a little meat daily and a fair amount of fat)	1,000
State loan	300
Taxes	100
Entertainment	120
Vodka	60
Cigarettes and/or smoking tobacco	80
Transportation	35
Furniture and apartment repair	100
Miscellaneous, including clothing	95
	<hr/> 2,000

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